REMARKS

Declaration

The Declaration filed with the present application is a copy of the Declaration that was filed with the parent and grandparent applications of the present application, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.63(d). The title on the Declaration matches the title of the grandparent application which has a different title than the present application.

The Declaration does not identify the chain of continuity, because the chain of continuity is purely domestic and is presented in the first sentence of the specification. This is in accordance with 37 CFR 1.63(c), which requires only foreign priority to be presented in the Declaration.

Therefore, no new Declaration is required for the present application.

Double Patenting Rejection

The double patent rejection is overcome as suggested by the Examiner, by submission of a Terminal Disclaimer enclosed with this Amendment.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a filter stage and an analysis stage. The analysis stage generates two control signals -- a filtering coefficient and a signal-to-noise ratio value. These two control signals are used by the filter stage to generate a filtered digital output signal from a digital input signal. The analysis stage receives the both the digitial signal that is received by the filter stage and the digital signal that is output by the filter stage, in order to generate the two control signals.

These limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference to Sih. Sih's vocoder 12 (which the Examiner contends corresponds to the claimed filter stage) does not receive two control signals as claimed, much less the two control signals specified in claim 1 (i.e., the filtering coefficient and the signal-to-noise ratio value).

Further in contrast to claim 1, Sih's noise suppressor 38 and combiner 260 (which the Examiner contends correspond to the claimed analysis stage) do not, as claimed, receive both the signal received by the filter stage and the signal output by the filter stage. They further do not, as claimed, output two control signals.

Therefore, on several grounds, claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claim 14

Claim 14 recites a filtering step that uses two control signals -- a filter coefficient and a signal-to-noise ratio value -- to filter a digital input signal to generate a filtered digital output signal. Both the input and output signals are analyzed to generate the two control signals.

These steps are not disclosed or suggested by Sih. Sih's vocoder 12 (which the Examiner contends performs the claimed filtering step) does not use the two claimed control signals to filter an input signal. Additionally, Sih's noise suppressor 38 and combiner 260 (which the Examiner contends perform the claimed analysis step) do not analyze both the input and output signals as claimed and do not generate the two control signals as claimed. Therefore, claim 14 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claim 15

Claim 15 is amended by deletion of the word "input" from "filtered digital input signal". This is an editorial change that does not affect claim scope.
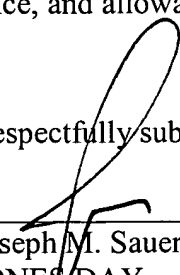
Claim 15 recites means for filtering and means for analyzing. These elements are lacking in Lih for the same reasons the filtering and analyzing steps are lacking in Lih. Therefore, claim 15 also is a patentable over the cited prior art.

Dependent Claims 2-13

The remaining claims are dependent claims. They depend from claim 1, which is patentable over the prior art as explained above. The limitations that they add to claim 1 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 2-13 also are patentable.

The application is now in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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